

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) [[A]] An isolated biopolymer marker peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~diagnostic for congestive heart failure~~.

Claims 2-35. (cancelled)

Claim 36. (currently amended) A method for ~~diagnosing congestive heart failure~~ determining the presence of an isolated biopolymer marker consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 comprising:

- (a) obtaining a sample from a patient;
- (b) conducting mass spectrometric analysis on said sample in a manner effective to maximize ~~elucidation of discernible analysis of peptide fragments~~ contained therein and comparing mass spectrum profiles of said isolated biopolymer marker consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 to mass spectrum profiles of peptides obtained and analyzed from said sample; and

~~(c) comparing mass spectrum profiles of a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 to mass spectrum profiles of peptides elucidated from said sample, wherein recognition of a mass spectrum profile in the sample displaying the characteristic profile of the mass spectrum profile for the peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 is diagnostic for congestive heart failure~~

(c) confirming the presence of said isolated biopolymer marker consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 in said sample displaying a peak profile at about 1793 daltons in said mass spectrum profile;

wherein the presence of said isolated biopolymer marker consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 is indicative of a link to congestive heart failure.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the sample is an unfractionated body fluid or a tissue sample.

Claim 38. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, blood products, urine, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid, and lymph.

Claim 39. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said mass spectrometric analysis is Surface Enhanced Laser

Desorption Ionization (SELDI) mass spectrometry (MS).

Claim 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said patient is a human.

Claim 41. (currently amended) ~~A congestive heart failure diagnostic kit~~ A kit for determining the presence of an isolated biopolymer marker consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 comprising: (a) a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, and (b) an antibody that binds to said peptide in a sample from a patient.

Claim 42. (currently amended) The ~~diagnostic assay~~ kit of claim 41, wherein said antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

Claim 43. (currently amended) The ~~diagnostic~~ kit of claim 41, wherein said antibody is labeled.